

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1 and 2. These sheets, which includes Figures 1 and 2, replace the original sheets including Figures 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the current application. Claims 1 and 2 are in independent form.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and the Examiner's indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of the references filed with the April 4, 2005, July 20, 2005, August 23, 2005, and May 14, 2007, information disclosure statements and that the Examiner has included an initialed copy of each Form 1449 indicating that all references have been considered.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner objects to the drawings. The Examiner alleges that, "[t]he lines in general are not uniformly thick." Office Action, p. 2. Replacement drawing sheets in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 are attached hereto. The replacement FIGS. 1 and 2 are revised taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request that the drawing objections be withdrawn.

Specification Objections

Headings

The Examiner objects to the specification for failing to include headings. Although headings are not mandatory, Applicants have amended the specification taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. No new matter is added by the amendment to the specification. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

Claim References

The Examiner objects to the specification for referencing claim 1. Applicants have amended the specification taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. No new matter is added by the amendment to the specification. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

Abstract

The Examiner objects to the abstract as allegedly failing to comply with the recommendations of 37 CFR § 1.72 because the Abstract recites, "said[.]" As the Examiner notes, compliance with the recommendations is not mandatory. However, Applicants have amended the Abstract taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. No new matter is added by the amendment to the Abstract. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the Abstract be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 3-5, 8-10 and 12 for alleged informalities. Applicants have amended claims 3-5, 8-10 and 12 taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Applicants respectfully request that the claim objections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Ryuichi

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ryuichi et al. (JP 1122730, hereinafter "Ryuichi"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein at least one of the two bus bar tubes is configured to be filled with insulating gas." Claim 2 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the bellows and at least one of the two bus bar tubes are filled with insulating gas."

Ryuichi does not disclose, at least, "bus bar tubes[.]" as recited by claims 1 and 2. Ryuichi discloses a circuit breaker connected to first and second branching circuits 31 and 32, the branching circuits flexibly connected to each other. Propelling force of an insulation gas working on the branching circuits is, "cancelled with a time rod 42[.]" the time rod 42 being between the branching circuits. See Ryuichi, English Abstract and FIG. 1. Further, Ryuichi, FIG. 3, illustrates solid bus bars 43 and 47. Ryuichi does not disclose hollow bus bars.

At least because Ryuichi fails to disclose every element of claims 1 and 2, claims 1 and 2 cannot be anticipated by Ryuichi. Claims 3-12 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from either claim 1 or 2. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-12.

Masaki

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Masaki et al. (JP 04190609, hereinafter "Masaki"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein at least one of the two bus bar tubes is configured to be filled with insulating gas." Claim 2 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the bellows and at least one of the two bus bar tubes are filled with insulating gas."

Masaki does not disclose, at least, "bus bar tubes[.]" as recited by claims 1 and 2. Masaki discloses a two bushing presser fitting where the two bushings are pressed together. See Masaki, English Abstract and FIG. 1. In the figures of Masaki, the bus bars are illustrated as being solid. For example, the connection elements of the bus

bars illustrate recessed connections (e.g., Masaki, FIG. 1, #26). Masaki does not disclose hollow bus bars.

At least because Masaki fails to disclose every element of claims 1 and 2, claims 1 and 2 cannot be anticipated by Masaki. Claims 3-12 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from either claim 1 or 2. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-12.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 13 and 14 are new claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1. Claim 14 is patentable for reasons at least similar to those stated above for claims 1 and 2, noting that claim 14 should be interpreted based solely on the limitations included therein.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims **1-14** in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$130.00 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By


Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

DJD/AXV:tlt